

COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.

"Enlightened minds and virtuous manners lead to the gates of glory."

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sened, and they enabled so completely to surround the enemy as to prevent their escape during the night. Early the ensuing morning, the Indians perceiving themselves completely hemmed in by the English, made a violent attempt to break through their lines; they were however, driven back with great loss; they next attempted to force the line forward by the Connecticut troops, but here they met with a much warmer reception, the contest now became close and severe, the Indians, who were about 600 in number, appeared determined not to yield but at the expense of their lives; one of the most resolute of them walked boldly up to Captain Mason, with an uplifted tomahawk, and when about to give the fatal stroke, received a blow from the latter, who, with his cutlass severed the head of the savage from his body! The enemy soon after made another attempt to break thro' the lines of the English, and in which, after a violent struggle, they finally succeeded; about 60 of their bravest warriors escaped, the remainder being either killed or taken prisoners; the loss of the English was 11 killed and about 20 wounded.

The prisoners taken were divided among the troops, some of whom were retained by them as servants, and the remainder sent to the West-Indies and sold to the planters. The prisoners reported that the whole tribe of

Pequots was now nearly exterminated; that in different engagements there had been upwards of 2000 of them killed and about 1000 captured, among whom were 13 sachems, and that six yet survived, one of whom was Sassacus, who had fled with the fragment of his tribe to the country bordering on Hudson river, inhabited by the Mohawks.

After the swamp fight, the Pequots became so weak and scattered that the Mohegans and Narragansets daily destroyed them, and presented their scalps to the English; the few that fled with Sassacus, to the westward, were attacked and totally destroyed by the Mohawks. The scalp of Sassacus, was in the fall of 1638, presented to the Governor and Council of Massachusetts.

Soon after the extermination of the Pequots, the Narragansets (the most numerous tribe in New-England) being displeased with the small power with which they were vested, and the respect which the English uniformly manifested for Uncus, appeared disposed to break their treaty of friendship. Miantonomi, without consulting the English according to agreement, without proclaiming war or giving Uncus the least information, raised an army of 1000 men and marched against him. The spies of Uncus discovered the army at some distance and gave him intelligence; he was unprepared, but rallying

about 500 of his bravest men, he told them they must by no means suffer Miantonomi to enter their town, but must go and give him battle on his way. The Mohegans having marched three or four miles, met the enemy upon an extensive plain; when the armies had advanced within fair bow shot of each other, Uncus had recourse to stratagem, with which he had previously acquainted his warriors; he desired a parley, which being granted, both armies halted in the face of each other; Uncus gallantly advancing in front of his men, addressed Miantonomi to this effect: "You have a number of stout men with you, and so have I with me; it is a great pity that so many brave warriors should be killed in consequence of a private misunderstanding between us two! Come like a brave man as you profess to be, and let us decide the dispute alone. If you kill me, my men shall be yours; but if I kill you, your men shall be mine!"— "No!" replied Miantonomi "my men came to fight and they shall fight!" Upon which Uncus falling instantly to the ground, his men discharged a shower of arrows among the Narragansets, and without a moment's interval, rushing upon them in the most furious manner, with a hideous yell, put them to flight. The Mohegans pursued the enemy with the same fury and eagerness with which they commenced the action; the Narragansets were driven down rocks and precipices, and chased like a doe by the huntsman; many of them, to escape from their pursuers plunged into a river from rocks of near sixty feet in height; among others, Miantonomi was hard pushed, some of the most forward of the

Mohegans coming up with him, twirled him about and impeded his flight, that Uncus, their sachem, might alone have the honor of taking him. Uncus, (who was a man of great bodily strength) rushing forward like a lion greedy for his prey, seized Miantonomi by the shoulder, and giving the Indian whoop, called up his men who were behind, to his assistance. The victory was complete; about 50 of the Narragansets were killed and a much greater number wounded and taken prisoners; among the latter was a brother of Miantonomi and two of the sons of Canonicus, whom Uncus conducted in triumph to Mohegan. Some few days after, Uncus conducted Miantonomi back to the spot where he was taken, for the purpose of putting him to death; at the instant they arrived on the ground, an Indian (who was ordered to march in the rear for the purpose) sunk a hatchet into his head, and dispatched him at a single stroke! He was probably unacquainted with his fate and knew not by what means he fell; Uncus cut out a large piece of his shoulder, which he devoured in savage triumph, declaring in the mean time that "it was the sweetest meat he ever eat; it made his heart strong!" The Mohegans buried Miantonomi at the place of his execution, and erected upon his grave a pillar of stones. This memorable event gave the place the name of "Sachem's Plains"—they are situated in an eastern corner of Norwich.

The Narragansets became now greatly enraged at the death of their sachem, and sought means to destroy Uncus, whose country they in small parties frequently invaded, and by laying ambuscades,

cut off a number of his most valuable warriors. As Uncus was the avowed friend of the English, and had in many instances signalized himself as such, they conceived it their duty to afford him all the protection possible; they despatched messengers to acquaint the Narragansets with their determination, should they continue to molest and disturb the Mohegans. The messengers of the English met with quite an unfavorable reception, to whom one of the Narraganset sachems declared that, "he would kill every Englishman and Mohegan that came within his reach: that who ever began the war he would continue it, and that nothing should satisfy him but the head of Uncus."

The English, irritated by the provoking language of the Narragansets, determined not only to protect Uncus, but to invade their country with an army of 300 men; first to propose a peace on their own terms, but if rejected, to attack and destroy them. For this purpose Massachusetts was to furnish 190, and Plymouth and Connecticut colonies 55 men each.

The Narragansets learning that an army was about to enter the heart of their country, and fearful of the issue despatched several of their principal men to sue for peace, on such terms as the English should be pleased to grant. The Governor and Council demanded that they should restore to Uncus all the captives and canoes which they had taken from him, and pledge themselves to maintain perpetual peace with the English and their allies, and to the former pay an annual tribute of 2000 fathom of white wampum! These indeed were

hard terms, against which the Narragansets, strongly remonstrated, but, aware that the English had already a considerable force collected for the express purpose of invading their country, they at length thought it most prudent to acquiesce.

During the war between the Narragansets and Uncus, the former once besieged the fort of the latter until his provisions were exhausted, and he found that his men must soon perish either by famine or the tomahawk, unless speedily relieved; in this crisis he found means of communicating an account of his situation to the English scouts, who had been despatched from the fort in Saybrook to reconnoitre the enemy. Uncus represented the dangers to which the English would be exposed if the Narragansets should succeed in destroying the Mohegans. It was at this critical juncture that the greatest part of the English troops in Connecticut were employed on an expedition abroad; a Mr. Thomas Leffingwell, however, a bold and enterprising man, on learning the situation of Uncus, loaded a canoe with provision, and under cover of the night paddled from Saybrook into the river Thames, and had the address to get the whole into the fort. The enemy soon after discovered that Uncus had received supplies, raised the siege. For this piece of service, Uncus presented said Leffingwell, with a deed of a very large tract of land, now comprising the whole town of Norwicht.

The English in New-England now enjoyed a peace until the year 1671, when they again took up arms to revenge the death of one of their countrymen, who had been inhumanely murdered by an Indian belonging to the Nipmuc.

tribe, of which the celebrated Philip, of Mount-Hope (now Bristol, R. I.) was sachem. It was thought the most prudent step by the Governor and Council, first to send for Philip, and acquaint him with the cause of their resentment, and the course which they were determined to pursue in case he refused to deliver into their hands the murderer. Philip being accordingly sent for, and appearing before the court, appeared much dissatisfied with the conduct of the accused, assuring them that no pains should be spared to bring him to justice; and more fully to confirm his friendship for the English, expressed a wish that the declaration which he was about publicly to make, might be committed to paper, that he and his Council might thereunto affix their signatures. The Governor and Council, in compliance with the request of Philip, drew up the following, which after being signed by Philip and his chief men, was presented to the Governor by Philip, in confirmation of his friendly assurance:—

"Whereas my father, my brother and myself, have uniformly submitted to the good and wholesome laws of his Majesty, the King of England, and have ever respected his faithful subjects, the English, as our friends and brothers, and being still anxious to brighten the chain of friendship between us, we do now embrace this opportunity to pledge ourselves, that we will spare no pains in seeking out and bringing to justice, such of our tribe as shall hereafter commit any outrage against them; and to remove all suspicion, we voluntarily agree to deliver up to them, all the fire

arms which they have heretofore kindly presented us with, until such time as they can safely repose confidence in us; and for the true performance of these our sacred promises, we have hereunto set our hands.

Chief Sachem.

PHILIP's \times mark.

Chief Men.

POKANCKET's \times mark.

UNCOMBO's \times mark.

SAMKAMA's \times mark.

WOCOKOM's \times mark.

In presence of the }
Governor and Council. }

Notwithstanding the fair promises of Philip, it was soon discovered by the English, that he was playing a deep game, that he was artfully enticing his red brethren throughout the whole of New-England, to rise, enmasse, against them, and drive them out of the country; the Narragansets, for the purpose, had engaged to raise 4000 fighting men; the spring of 1672 was the time agreed upon on which the grand blow was to be given. The evil intentions of Philip, were first discovered and communicated to the English, by a friendly Indian of the Narraganset tribe; fortunately for them, this Indian had been taken into favor by the Rev. Mr. Eliot, by whom he had been taught to read and write, and became much attached to the English. The Governor upon receiving the important information relative to the hostile views of Philip, ordered a military watch to be kept up in all the English settlements within the three colonies; by some of whom it was soon discovered that the report of their Indian friend was too well founded, as the Indians of different tribes were daily seen flocking in great numbers to the

head quarters of Philip; previously sending their wives and children to the Narraganset country, which they had ever done previous to the commencement of hostilities.

The inhabitants of Swanzy (a small settlement adjoining Mount-Hope, the head quarters of Philip) were the first who felt the effects of this war. Philip, encouraged by the numbers who were daily enlisting under his banners and despairing of discovering cause that could justify him, in the commencement of hostilities against his "friends and brothers," as he had termed them, resolved to provoke them to war by killing their cattle, firing their barns, &c. This plan had its desired effect, as the inhabitants, determined to save their property or perish in the attempt, fired upon the Indians, which was deemed cause sufficient by the latter to commence their bloody work—the *war-whoop* was immediately thereupon sounded, when the Indians commenced an indiscriminate murder of the defenceless inhabitants of Swanzy, sparing not the tender infant at the breast! —But three, of seventy-eight persons which the town contained, made their escape. Messengers were despatched with the melancholy tidings of this bloody affair, to the Governor, who by and with the advice and consent of the Council, despatched a company of militia with all possible speed to the relief of the distressed inhabitants residing near the head quarters of Philip; as soon as they could be raised, three companies more were despatched under the command of Captains Henchman, Prentice, and Church, who arrived in the neighborhood of Swanzy, on the 28th June, where

they were joined by four more companies from Plymouth colony. It was found that the Indians had pillaged and set fire to the village, and with their booty had retired to Mount-Hope. A company of cavalry were sent under the command of Captain Prentice, to reconitre them; but before they arrived at a convenient place for this purpose, they were ambushed and fired upon by the enemy, who killed six of their number and wounded ten; the report of their guns alarming the remaining companies of the English, they hastened to the relief of the cavalry who at this moment were completely surrounded by about 600 Indians; between whom and the English a warm contest now ensued; the savages fought desperately, and more than once nearly succeeded in overpowering the English, but very fortunately for the latter, when nearly despairing of victory, a fresh company of militia from Boston arrived; which, flanking the enemy on the right and left, and exposing them to two fires, soon overpowered them, and caused them to seek shelter in an adjoining wood, inaccessible to the English. The English had in this severe engagement, 42 killed and 73 wounded, many of them mortally; the enemy's loss was supposed to be much greater.

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History.

After the dissolution of the Assembly, frequent meetings were held by the people in Boston, which ended in a remonstrance to the governor, to the same purpose as some of the former; but concluding with a request, that he would take upon him to order,

the king's ships out of the harbour. While the disposition of the Bostonians was thus going on from bad to worse, news arrived that the agent of the colony had not been allowed to deliver their petition to the king; it having been objected, that the assembly without the governor, was not sufficient authority. This did not allay the ferment; it was further augmented, by news that a number of troops had been ordered to repair to Boston, to keep the inhabitants in awe. A dreadful alarm now ensued; the people called on the governor to convene a general assembly, in order to remove the fears of the military; who, they, said, were to be assembled to overthrow their liberties, and enforce obedience to the laws to which they were entirely averse. The governor replied, it was no longer in his power to call an assembly, having in his last instructions from England, been required to wait the king's orders; the matter being then under consideration there.

Thus refused, the people took upon themselves to call an assembly, which they termed a convention. The proceedings and resolutions of this body, pertoak of the temper and disposition of the late assembly; but they went a step farther: and having voted, "That there is apprehension in the minds of many, of an approaching rupture with France," requested the inhabitants to put themselves in a posture of defence against any sudden attack of an enemy; and circular letters were directed to all the towns in the province, acquainting them with the resolutions that had been taken in the capitol, and exhorting them to proceed in the same manner. The town of Hatfield

alone refused its concurrence. The convention thought proper, however, to assure the governor of their pacific intentions, and renewed their request, that a general assembly might be called; but being refused an audience, and threatened to be treated as rebels, they at last thought proper to dissolve themselves, and sent over to Britain a circumstantial account of their proceedings, with the reason for having assembled in the manner already mentioned.

On the very day the convention broke up, the troops arrived, and houses in the town were fitted up for their reception. Their arrival had a considerable influence on the people, and for some time put a stop to the disturbances; but the seeds of discord had taken such deep root, that it was impossible to quench the flame. The outrageous behaviour of the people of Boston, had given great offence in England: and notwithstanding all the efforts of opposition, an address from both houses of parliament was presented to the king; in which the behaviour of the colony of Massachusetts Bay was set forth in the most ample manner, and vigorous measures recommended for reducing them to obedience. The Americans, however, continued steadfast in the ideas they had adopted.

Though the troops had for some time quieted the disturbances, yet the calm continued no longer than they were formidable on account of their number, but as soon as they were separated by the departure of a large detachment, the remainder were treated with contempt, and it was even resolved to expel them altogether. The country people took up

arms for this purpose, and were to have assisted their friends in Boston; but before the plot could be put into execution, an event happened in which put an end to every idea of reconciliation betwixt the contending parties.

On the 5th of March 1770, a scuffle happened between the soldiers and a party of the town's people; the inhabitants poured in to the assistance of their fellow-citizens; a violent tumult ensued, during which they military fired upon the populace, killed and wounded several of them.

The whole province now rose in arms, and the soldiers were obliged to retire to castle William to prevent their being cut to pieces. Let it be remembered, however, that on the trial, notwithstanding popular prejudice and apprehension, the captain and six of the men were acquitted: two men only being found guilty of man-slaughter.

In other respects, the determinations of the Americans gained strength; until at last, the government determining to act with vigour and at the same time, with as much condescension as was consistant with its dignity, without abandoning their principles, repealed all the duties laid; that on tea alone excepted: and this, it was thought could not be productive of any discontent in America, as being an affair of very little moment; the produce of which was not expected to exceed sixteen thousand pounds sterling.

The opposition, however, were strenuous in their endeavours to get this tax repealed; insisting, that the Americans would consider it as an inlet to others; and, that the repeal of all the rest, without this, would answer no good purpose: the event showed

that their opinion was well founded. The Americans opposed the tea tax with the same violence as they had done all the rest; and at last, when they were informed that salaries had been settled on the judge of the superior court of Boston, the governor was addressed on the subject; the measure was condemned in the strongest terms; and a committee selected out of the several districts of the colony to inquire into it.

The new assembly proceeded in the most formal manner to disavow the supremacy of the British legislature; and accused the parliament of Great Britain of having violated the natural rights of the Americans, in a number of instances. Copies of the transactions of this assembly, were transmitted to every town in Massachusetts, exhorting the inhabitants to rouse themselves and exert every nerve in opposition to the iron hand of oppression, which was daily tearing the choicest fruits from the fair tree of liberty.

These disturbances were also greatly heightened by an accidental discovery, that governor Hutchinson had written several confidential letters to persons in power in England, complaining of the behaviour of the people of the province, recommending vigorous measures against them; and among other things, asserting that, "there must be an abridgment of what is called British liberty." Letters of this kind had fallen into the hands of the agent for the colony at London. They were immediately transmitted to Boston, where the assembly was sitting, by whom they were laid before the governor, who was thus reduced to a very mortifying situation.

Loosing every idea of respect or friendship for him, as their governor, they instantly despatched a petition to the king, requesting him to remove the governor, and deputy governor from their places: but to this they not only received an unfavourable answer, but the petition itself was declared groundless and scandalous.

Matters were now nearly ripe for the utmost extremities on the part of the Americans, and they were precipitated in the following manner. Though the colonies had entered into a non-importation agreement against tea, as well as all other commodities from Britain, it had nevertheless found its way into America, though smaller quantities than before. This was sensibly felt by the East India company, who had agreed to pay a large sum annually to the government; in recompence for which compliance, and make up their losses in other respects, they were empowered to export their tea free from any duty payable in England: and, in consequence of this permission, several ships freighted with this commodity, were sent to North America, & proper agents appointed for taking charge, and disposing of it.

The Americans now perceiving that the tax was thus likely to be enforced, whether they would or not, determined to take every possible method to prevent the tea from being landed, well knowing that it would be impossible to hinder the sale, should the commodity once be brought on shore. For this purpose the people assembled in great numbers, forcing those to whom the tea was consigned, to resign their offices; and to promise solemnly never to resume them; and committees were appointed to examine the

accounts of the merchants, and make public tests, declaring such as would not take them enemies to their country. Nor was this behaviour confined to the colony of Massachusetts Bay; the rest of the provinces entered into the contest, with the same warmth; and manifested the same resolution to oppose this innovation of rights.

In the midst of this confusion, three ships laden with tea, arrived in Boston; but so much were the captains alarmed at the disposition of the people, that they offered, providing they could get the proper discharges from the tea consignees, custom-houses and governor, to return to Britain without landing their cargoes. The parties concerned, however, tho' they durst not order the tea to be landed, refused to grant the discharges required. The ships, therefore, would have been obliged to remain in the harbour; but the people apprehensive that if they remained there the tea would be landed in small quantities, and disposed of in spite of every endeavour to prevent it; resolved to destroy it at once.

To OUR PATRONS.—Seventy-five cents being due from each subscriber on the receipt of the 1st. number of the COLUMBIAN HISTORIAN.—Some 18 or 20 have paid us, for which they have our thanks. Those indebted will, we hope, make immediate payment, as 18 or 20 punctual subscribers will not justify the continuance of a work, having the promised patronage of 300; therefore, if payment is not made by those indebted, before the completion of the first six months (26 Nos.) the publication of this work will be discontinued.